

Proverbs 1:8-19
Bad Company

Listen my son ...

- I. Bad Company
 - A. Really Bad People
 - B. Destroyers of Faith
- II. Corrupts Good Character
 - A. No Clean Slates
 - B. Negative Impressions
- III. Have Nothing to Do with Them
 - A. Destructive Alliances
 - B. The Balance of Grace
- IV. Go in the Way of the Lord
 - A. Your Moral Compass
 - B. Your Best Friends

... choose Your Friends Wisely

Children, listen ...

1. What are some ways you know your parents want what is best for you?
2. Do you think they might have some wisdom in helping you choose your friends?
3. What should you do if someone you know wants you to do something bad?
4. Why is it good to have friends that love the Lord and want to do what God wants?

Bad Friends?

True friendship is one of the great gifts God has given to mankind. But not all “friends” are truly friends. We must allow our true friends a lot of space remembering that they are flawed just like we are and that they may fail and even hurt at times. They may even fail to be gung-ho about their walk with God – let alone yours. Yet, they are can still be true friends. But there may be people in our lives that we allow to have a bad influence on us. They are corrupt, and they want us to join them in their corruption. We can't give in, and if the pressure persists to engage in bad behavior we will have to put the reign on the relationship. (We don't want to be THAT GUY either – the one who IS the bad influence!). Like Jesus, we need to be friends with sinners – even notorious ones. Unlike Jesus we are not very good at resisting temptation. So, we need to be extremely careful about who we ally ourselves closely with. A true friend will never drag you down and will not pull you away from the Lord. A true friend will encourage you and build you up in your faith. Don't be enticed by those who love evil – be enhanced by close association with those have your best interest in mind and want your walk with your Lord to be amazing.